

Comprehension Newsletter February 2026

Reading is essential for those who seek to rise above the ordinary
-Jim Rohn

First Thursday Highlights

Testing Season, the KAT Way: Model, Participate, Reflect

This month's KAT Chat focused on preparing for testing season through a seamless and intentional transition grounded in the KAT Framework. Ms. Pilar Sierra modeled how state assessment questions can be approached strategically, without shifting away from strong instructional routines.

During the session, participants observed how to:

- Read and **unpack the question** first
- **Connect the question** to the specific part of the **main idea** it targets
- Narrow thinking to that portion of the main idea to **rationalize** answer choices
- **Eliminate distractors** by explaining *why* they do not align with the text or thinking process

Ms. Sierra also demonstrated practical ways to hold students accountable for their thinking by requiring them to justify why an answer is correct and why other options can be eliminated.

This **approach reinforces clarity, confidence, and consistency!**

The session highlighted how **KAT supports a powerful, instructionally sound transition** into testing for districts, while keeping student thinking and comprehension at the center.

[Watch the segment here.](#)

Teachers' Spotlight: First-Year KAT Implementation — Reflections, Growth, and What's Next

In this segment, **Ms. Crabtree** and **Ms. Barnett** shared reflections from their first year implementing the KAT Framework and the growth they've seen along the way.

They highlighted the importance of **implementing with fidelity** while keeping students actively engaged in the learning process. Both teachers emphasized that differentiation does not require changing the learning outcome. Instead, they discussed how adjusting the product—such as student responses, discussion formats, or supports, allows all students to access the same **rigorous thinking**. By maintaining consistent expectations and routines, they have seen **continuous growth** among their students.

Watch the video to learn more about their insights on implementation, differentiation, and what's next [here](#).

Celebrations and Shout Outs

Shout-out to **College Station ISD** principals and teachers for strong KAT checkpoint data, clearly written main ideas, and a seamless transition into testing through consistent implementation and high student engagement.

Outstanding work to **Monroe Elementary** for a highly successful professional development session marked by 100% implementation, rich engagement, and thoughtful reflections. The commitment to the process and consistency was evident throughout.

Huge shout-out to **Dr. Kay and collaborators** for securing a new middle school grant, expanding the reach and impact of this important work.

[View the celebration highlights here!](#)

First Thursday Links

- [KAT Chat Full Video](#)
- [KAT Chat Slides](#)
- [KAT Chat Calendar](#)
- [KAT Chat News & Updates](#)
- [KAT Chat Library Updates](#)
 - [Model lesson PPT Rationale](#)
 - [2025 3rd Grade Rationale](#)
 - [2025 4th Grade Rationale](#)
 - [2025 5th Grade Rationale](#)
 - [ECR 3rd Grade](#)
 - [ECR 4th Grade](#)
 - [ECR 5th Grade](#)
 - [Summary & Inference Approaches](#)
 - [DO NOT USE BME Strategy](#)

Contact Information

Dr. Kay Wijekumar
Houston Endowment
Chair & Director of CUSP
Texas A&M University
K_Wijekumar@tamu.edu
(724) 422-3183

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KAT Questions & Answers

We received great questions this month. Here are brief answers to support implementation and keep everyone aligned.

Q1: How can I make sure students are aware of the genre (like fable) we are covering?

A: Be intentional during introductions by clearly stating the genre every time a text is read. Support this by having students maintain a genre journal where they document genre names, meanings, and examples. Dr. Kay also recommends exposing students to genres multiple times and reinforcing understanding through interactive activities, such as games like Jeopardy, which templates are in our file library, to strengthen recognition and transfer.

Q2: Would you be able to share the calendar in advance?

A: Calendars are available at the beginning of each month. While they are officially showcased during the First Thursday KAT Chat, all resources can be accessed earlier by visiting the file library and locating the folder labeled with the corresponding month and year.

Not only did we receive thoughtful questions, but we also received encouraging feedback from teachers across classrooms.

- ✓ *My kids are VERY engaged in the lessons. And am seeing good oral language growth with my kinders!*
- ✓ *I'm so thankful that I found KAT! It has transformed my reading lessons.*
- ✓ *Thanks to the teachers for sharing. Love the ideas. Also, I really do appreciate all the resources.*

What Teachers Are Asking

Watch our segment [here](#).

**Mark your calendar for the next First Thursday:
March 5, 2026**

We'll see you there!



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Contact Information

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Houston Endowment
Chair & Director of CUSP
Texas A&M University
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(724) 422-3183

ACE Literacy Project

To share the ACE flyers with your families, click on the links below. These are great resources to support **home-school connection** over the upcoming break and help keep students engaged.

- [ACE Podcast Flyer – English](#)
- [ACE Podcast Flyer – Spanish](#)

Available on YouTube, iTunes, Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts!

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